

HOUSE BILL 3177

By Hackworth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, to create a pilot program to enhance career opportunities in health care in Tennessee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is created a pilot program to increase the career opportunities of health care providers in Tennessee. Many students in high school are willing to explore and engage in health-related fields and this program will introduce, encourage, and reward students who pursue health-related fields.

SECTION 2. The Tennessee board of regents shall cooperate with high schools that participate in this pilot program to ensure that the courses offered will be accepted for completion of the appropriate degree or that the appropriate degree will be awarded to students having earned such degree.

SECTION 3. Three (3) high schools, one (1) in each grand division of the state, selected by the commissioner of education, shall be eligible to participate in this pilot project. The schools shall provide courses for students interested in careers in health care, including but not limited to, nursing and radiological health. Successful completion of such classes shall be accepted as completing an equivalent class in a board of regents school. Such courses shall include classwork and clinical training. Clinical training in medical facilities shall be encouraged. Additional fees may be charged for such classes, but only in an amount sufficient to pay for materials or supplies that are not generally provided by the school.

SECTION 4. Students are required to complete all other courses specified by the state board of education for graduation from high school.

SECTION 5. Class sizes for this program may be limited by the LEA. Each LEA that offers the exceptional educational opportunities provided by this act for their students shall

determine the number of students participating in the program, the number of students who complete the program, and the number of students who take related courses in a board of regents school. Each participating LEA shall prepare a report on the efforts and results of such pilot program and shall present such report to the house and senate education committees by January 15, 2010.

SECTION 6. The Tennessee board of regents is hereby directed to cooperate with and provide all available assistance to schools providing such programs.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.